

Village Board of Trustees  
Village of Sackets Harbor  
Meeting Minutes  
March 13, 2012

Present: Mayor Eric Constance, Deputy Mayor Daniel Frechette, Trustee Lawrence Barone, Trustee Peter Daly, Trustee John LaDuc

Mayor Constance called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 6:33pm.

**Public Hearing**

Local Law #1 of 2012 regarding 2% Tax Levy Cap

At 6:34pm the mayor called the public hearing to order.

Treasurer Yuhas reviewed the 2% tax levy formula and the fact that the village will be raising less than the maximum amount allowed and do not need to pass an override tax cap law this year.

Motion to close the public hearing made by Trustee Daly; seconded by Trustee LaDuc. Vote 5-0; all in favor.

Mayor Constance said he thinks they should follow the recommendation of the Treasurer. Mayor Constance also noted that each year they must discuss the need for an override law.

**Minutes**

Mayor Constance reviewed the minutes with some minor typographic corrections. Trustee LaDuc moved to approve the minutes; Trustee Daly seconded the motion. Vote 5-0; all in favor.

**Mayor's Report**

Mayor Constance reviewed a letter from Susan B. Horr, chairperson of the Sackets Harbor Housing Authority. She made recommendations for members to serve on the board: Daphne Sterling will replace Mark McWilliams for an unexpired term ending 2015, Richard Stephens will replace Janice D'Alessandro for a five year term ending in 2017 and Steven Binion will replace Susan Horr for a five year term ending 2017.

Members and expiration dates of terms: Sherry Derouin, Secretary, April 2014. Amy Loomis - April 2013, Brenda Reinhardt - April 2014, Daphne Sterling – April 2015, Marion Colin – April 2016, Richard Stephens – April 2017, Steven Binion – April 2017

Trustee Daly moved to approve recommended appointments; Trustee LaDuc seconded the motion. Vote 5-0; all in favor.

Mayor Constance asked Don DiMonda to discuss the Economic Development Committee. Mr. DiMonda described the purpose of the committee. Members: Eric Constance, Tim Scee, Kelly Burns, Anita Prather-Harvell, Corry Lawler, Don Payne, Mike Campbell, Mark Pacilio, Jean Derouin, Don DiMonda, and Dave Altieri.

The committee is working on proposals for solutions to the economic downturn in the Village. Create a positive community business identity; incentives for new businesses, possibly hire a paid marketing director. He reviewed the job description and possible funding partnership with the Town of Hounsfield. Marketing director will report to the board of directors of the Greater Sackets Harbor Chamber of Commerce. Estimated expense for salary and programming costs - \$32,000. Asking Village and Town for \$15,000 each. Chamber will contribute \$2,000. Want to improve the image of the Village and create an atmosphere of success.

Mayor Constance sees many areas in the Town and Village that need to be improved and marketed, including the LDC property and Stone Hospital, and believes this is a two year commitment to get it going. The board discussed the new position – and financial support. Trustee LaDuc and Mr. DiMonda spoke about how zoning laws will manage growth and maintain the small town feel of the village. The board discussed how the increase in the commercial tax base improves the overall tax rate in the village, and increase entry level jobs for local young people.

Discussion regarding empty storefronts down town and businesses that rent for partial years (pop-up stores). Discussions with property owners are ongoing. Looks like Chinese takeout restaurant will be opening and a new operator will be taking over at the Barracks Inn location.

Trustee Barone reminded the Board that it is critical that the vision statement be kept in the forefront while planning the growth and activities. Do not want to go back ten years to the alcohol centric events of ten years ago. Our strength is in our charm and history.

Dave Altieri spoke about wanting to reverse the downward spiral so we do not become a desperate community that has to take any business that comes along; if we are aggressive, we can be selective.

Don DiMonda noted that he agreed with Trustee Barone - the last thing he wants is to have a community that attracts crowds that are mainly interested in bars and alcohol related activities. He discussed being proactive, reaching out to organizations like the running groups, locally and nationally and becoming a destination. Fireball Run from Universal Studios Florida - forty teams of two people each around the third week of September. It is great exposure for all the right reasons. We reached out and invited them to come here people come from all over the US to come to this event. It will be filmed and turned into a documentary film.

Mayor Constance asked the board for discussion. Trustee Daly suggested they table it till next month. Trustee Barone asked if there was any issues with the village using funds in conjunction with non-profit; are there any legal issues to consider? Mayor Constance will follow up. Topic tabled till next month.

Norm Hunneyman – Millcreek Land – addressed the board about Parkinson's Month. Mr. Hunneyman requested the Village declare April as Parkinson's Disease Awareness Month in Sackets Harbor. He discussed the ongoing search for a cure and his work to raise awareness. Trustee Daly moved to declare April Parkinson's Awareness month in Sackets Harbor; Deputy Mayor Frechette seconded the motion. Vote 5-0; all in favor.

Mayor Constance reviewed a handout regarding Article X and the Power NY Act of 2011.

Mayor Constance discussed the War of 1812 Bicentennial kickoff at the American Legion and Peace Garden dedication on April 16<sup>th</sup>.

Mayor Constance said the Sewer Plant has been awarded the New York Chapter of American Public Works Association environmental project of the year. Bernier, Carr & Associates has also put the plant in for a national award.

Mayor Constance noted that the Clerk was taking a poll of residents and business owners regarding the Fourth of July fireworks and currently the majority are in favor of continuing the practice.

Military Cemetery Howitzer – The American Legion has acquired an M115 Howitzer and would like to put it in the front middle area of the entrance to the Military Cemetery. There was general agreement that the Legion should move forward with the installation.

Morgia's Beach Water System – construction is being reviewed, there may be parts of the job that were done improperly.

Mayor Constance gave a list of Pickering Beach repair requests to DPW Superintendent Lonny Reinhardt.

The board discussed the Jefferson County EMS Cooperative Agreement.

Planning board update – member Anne Nans resigned. Mayor Constance thanked her for her service and noted the alternate should take over till the end of the year when they will make a new appointment.

Foil Requests being handled by the Clerk and Village Attorney – three of five have been answered.

The Boar discussed the request from Watertown Savings Bank, to install a rain gutter over the ATM per the renewal contract and agreed the DPW should install it.

Discussion regarding overnight docking at the Village docks, a suggestion from Bruce Chamberlain regarding increasing the ease of docking for boaters. Mayor Constance stated he does not want to have the village compete with private entities and asked the board for discussion. At this time Navy point is the only overnight parking in the harbor. Mr. McPherson of Navy Point noted that he has never had to turn anyone away for overnight docking.

Military attaches coming to the village May 18<sup>th</sup> Connie Barone of the Battlefield will be coordinating the tour.

\$37,530.72 payment from the LWRP grant has been approved by the Department of State. Should receive it shortly.

Mayor Constance asked the Board for Citizen of the Year nomination by the May meeting.

Water Plant Upgrade – Corey Reid of Bernier & Carr noted that the design has not gone to the DOH yet, hope to have it to them by the end of March. Waiting for information from the vendor regarding the three filter system rather than the two filter system to allow for maximum water production capacity and hope to have this resolved by April.

Update on Trail/and Fort Pike Grant – Dave Altieri reported that he is working with DPW Superintendent Lonny Reinhardt on the trail around the earthworks at Fort Pike Park and updating the exhibits at the visitor center. He is working with the Village Clerk on reimbursement applications. 1812 Bicentennial Trail easements are finally closing and go out to bid in the next few weeks.

Dedication of the Pumper House to the memory of Garrett Loomis to take place on Friday, April 13, at the request of the family. Village Clerk is working on the invitations and spreading the word.

Budget update – The board is hoping to reduce water and sewer rates and not raise the tax rate. They are reviewing some of the big expenditures required in the coming year.

Hunting in Village Update – Trustee Daly reviewed the concerns that were brought up in the January board meeting, and then at a discussion group of 29 residents who met a few weeks later. There were strong pro and con opinions regarding hunting in the village, but there was general agreement that the school area needed to be protected. They held another meeting in February where they reviewed maps and discussed a variety of solutions. Trustee Daly noted that he has recently been informed of a federal law under the Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms Bureau that stated a fire arm can not be discharged within 1000 feet of the school area; this will take care of the majority of the areas of concern. Per Officer Coseo, local law enforcement can enforce and it can be added on to current local law.

Budget process – Mayor Constance reminded the clerk to publish a public notice for public hearing on the budget for the April meeting.

Update on Payment in Lieu of Tax with regard to the Madison Barracks apartment construction - Mayor Constance has not received any information yet, but may have to have a special meeting before the end of the month to deal with the expected application

### **TRUSTEE REPORTS**

Deputy Mayor Frechette – attended the meeting regarding baseball and softball leagues and will have signups by the end of the month.

He will contact DOH regarding Summer Recreation program application process and he is talking to the recreation commission regarding the budget for the program.

Trustee Barone - Marketing committee has two request for advertising spending: a 1/16 advertisement in the Sackets Harbor 2012 Chamber of Commerce guide = \$325 and \$195 for the cost of coop advertising with Village and Chamber in Thousand Islands Council travel guide. Trustee Barone moved to approve the requests; Deputy Mayor Frechette seconded the motion. Vote 5-0; all in favor.

All the 1812 Bicentennial Heroes, banners have been sold.

Trustee LaDuc – noted that the ice rink will be torn down next week. He attended the Chamber of Commerce meeting and Recreation Commission meeting.

The Recreation Commission is actively planning on using the space at the sewer plant for adult recreation – tennis and bocci. They also plan to hold a public information forum at the school in May.

Trustee Peter Daly – working on design for the fire department’s new space in the old DPW area; the preliminary plan is drawn up.

Trustee LaDuc – announced that the Chamber of Commerce has a new president: Anita Prather-Harvell.

### **Treasurer’s Report, Jim Yuhas**

Treasurer Yuhas reported the village may be able to refinance our \$100,000 Rural Development loan under the EFC loan. Mayor Constance noted the board will check with the attorney.

Treasurer Yuhas reviewed the village financial status.

Revenues - \$585,809.11

Disbursements - \$238,250.11

Cash in Bank - \$458,598.93

Investments - \$1,200,000.00

Debt - \$6,665,000

Trustee Barone to approve the Treasurer's report; Deputy Mayor Frechette seconded the motion. Vote 5-0; all in favor.

Treasurer Yuhas requested that the board approve payment of Abstract #10, bills #787-878 = \$430,237.08. The bills were reviewed by Trustee Barone and Mayor Constance. Trustee Barone moved to approve payment of abstract #10; seconded by Deputy Mayor Frechette. Vote 5-0; all in favor.

## **DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS**

### DPW Superintendent, Lonny Reinhardt

Downtown bathroom construction will be complete and ready to open by Memorial Day Weekend.

PESH (Public Employee Safety and Health of the Department of Labor) – inspected all the village properties and Lynn Martin the safety officer has been working with him.

John Madlin will be in charge while Mr. Reinhardt is out of town through April 2012.

Radio Read Meters – working on completing installation by June 1. Morgia's Beach meter pits do not work with the meters we have.

### Visitor Center Manager, Gail Gorgen

Reminder that the Seaway Trail War of 1812 quilt show is this weekend – quilts will be at AANY, Village Visitor's Center and Seaway Trail. She and Dave Altieri are working on quotes for the video system.

### Village Engineer, Kris Dimmick

Corey Reid – all contracts for the sewer plant are closed out except WD Malone and Hubbard Construction. Hubbard has a few remaining restoration items and the outfall repair. Still working on pricing. Malone should be closed shortly. Most of the cost to repair the malfunctioning HDP will be paid by Hubbard. The Village will pay a small cost for improvements.

### Village Police, Richard Coseo

Mr. Coseo reported that it has been a quiet couple of months; he distributed a detailed report to the board and noted there was one felony in February.

### Heritage Area Director, David Altieri

Mr. Altieri reported that the Zoning Law Rewrite committee will meet Thursday and hope it will be the final meeting.

### Sackets Harbor Fire Department: None

### Planning Board, Chairman Gary Gibson

Mr. Gibson reported the Planning Board received the latest draft of the zoning law and will schedule a review session after they have all had some time to look at it.

The Board currently has an application to review to build a house at 101 Bayview Drive.

The McPherson's have applied to install a floating dock off their property on Ontario Street. The next meeting is Wednesday at 7pm.

Hay Memorial Library; President Beth Burdick

Ms. Burdick reported that the Library is sponsoring an AARP driving course March 28<sup>th</sup>.

Mayor Constance informed the board that he received a request from Goodfellows Restaurant, for a waiver of thirty day notice of liquor license. He asked the board if they were in favor of waiving the 30 day requirement. There was discussion. Richard Coseo asked if there is an existing liquor license number. Mr. Constance stated that the application is for a new license.

There was general agreement that if there was no objection from the village attorney, the Mayor may issue a waiver.

**Public Comment**

Helene Rainville – Edmund Street

Ms. Rainville informed the Board that her son, Tavique Stewart was at the meeting in January and did not receive a reply to his letter; she feels it is unprofessional to not reply to his letter. Ms. Rainville stated she believed comments were made about her during last month's meeting. She stated that she is the wife of a deployed soldier with two children, a volunteer EMT and firefighter, and just recently graduated with a master's degree and she does not appreciate comments made that she does not have enough to do. She stated that she believes she has received unequal treatment regarding the length of her comments and she believes an open meeting law is being violated. She stated that she has followed up on her request for information on why the village police vehicle was outside the village limits and the reply from Deputy Mayor Frechette that Officer Coseo was working on behalf the Village at Jefferson Community College as part of the safety seminars. She stated that she received a letter from Jefferson Community College that Mr. Coseo was not an instructor nor a participant in the public safety seminars. She continued to discuss the reply to her FOIL request for time sheets that showed he was not on duty. And finally, she informed the board that yesterday, she saw a Sackets Harbor Police vehicle in the parking lot at Watertown Commons and she believes the Board needs to know that this is an ongoing problem and they are allowing inappropriate behavior.

Mr. Steve McPherson – Ontario Street – asked if the 1812 Bicentennial trail would trail allow motorized vehicles and have signs. Mr. Dave Altieri replied that the trail was always designed to accommodate non-motorized vehicles and the Board has not finalized the hours. Mr. McPherson asked the board to consider the use of signs and setting appropriate hours – suggested dawn to dusk. Mr. McPherson also asked who will enforce any issues that make take place on the trail, and if there will be a patrol schedule. Mayor Constance replied that no special patrols are planned – it will be treated like any other public area. Mr. McPherson asked the board to establish hours limiting night time use of the trail.

Don DiMonda – Bayview Terrace - dog clean up – Spring is coming and asked the board to consider signs that reminded people that it is a violation to not clean up after the dog. Trustee Barone will follow up.

At 8:32 Trustee Daly moved to adjourn the meeting; Trustee Barone seconded; Vote 5-0; all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,  
Gertrude Mead Karris  
Village Clerk